



## RATIONALE

The walk and talk throughs provide children with opportunities to enter the world of the book, allowing them to become familiar with the plot, characters and ideas. They also provide space for the children to make links to their lives and experiences along the way.

## ADVICE FROM MEDIATORS

1. Familiarise yourself with the book and take note of points in the book that hold your attention.
2. Spend time looking at the front and back cover of the book, looking for clues about what could be happening inside.
3. Give children a double page spread from the book and invite them to explore these.
4. Invite the children to take turns at doing walk and talk throughs with the book, let them use the *look, think and respond* pattern of interacting with the book.
5. Be prepared to allow multiple walk and talk throughs, as children take great pleasure in making links to aspects of the story that relate to their lives, as well as noticing different things within the pictures.
6. Encourage the children to select their own books and try doing walk and talk throughs with each other.

## EXTENDED QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE WALKING AND TALKING THROUGH THE BOOK

**General questions:** Can you talk to me about what you're seeing and what it makes you think about? Does it remind you of anything you know or have seen before? Can you speak aloud your thoughts as you look at this page? Are there any questions that you'd like to ask either the author or illustrator if you had the chance? What is the book about?

**Questions about the colours and shapes:** Do you notice anything special/ interesting about the way the author/illustrator has used colour/perspective/ patterns/ shapes/ the space on the page? Why do you think the pictures have been drawn in this way? Do you find the words or the pictures more interesting? What would be the difference between having the story told only through the words or the visuals?

**Feelings and emotions:** Choose one double page spread from the book that you find especially interesting/challenging/surprising. Can you explain why it makes you feel like this? What words or visuals make you feel this way?

## TAKING NOTES OF THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSES

When children respond to a book, they do so in many ways. If they have the opportunity to take note of their responses, they can begin developing knowledge of themselves and their identities. The example illustrated in the photograph shows a group of young children's responses to the first few pages of Yangsook Choi's book *Name Jar*. The book tells the story of a young girl moving from Korea to the USA. On the page selected for this walk and talk through, children respond to the main character, Unhei who is looking out of a window on a bus to school. The children interpret the visual drawing on their own ideas and suggest she is: *On the bus, In her car, On a train, In the house, On an aeroplane, In a taxi or The London bus*. When we know more about the children, we can think about which parts of the book they are drawn to and plan to use some of the other strategies to guide the children's responses further and help them relate to other parts of the book as well.

